

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-03 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /140 W

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R 130030Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8964

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3364

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, MX, PFOR, IT, UK

SUBJECT: FOOTNOTES TO RABASA VISIT

REF: SANTIAGO 3089, 2948

1. WELL INFORMED MID-LEVEL OFFICIAL IN FON MINISTRY TOLD EMBOFF JUNE 11 THAT RABASA VISIT BEGAN IN ATMOSPHERE OF ABSOLUTE FROST ON BOTH SIDES. RABASA AND CHILEAN FON MIN HUERTA GREETED EACH OTHER FORMALLY AND WARIWY. BUT AS HOURS WENT BY RABASA VISIBLY IMPRESSED BY CLIMATE OF NORMALITY HE SAW IN SANTIAGO. CHILEANS CONVINCED HE HAD ACCEPTED IMAGE OF CHILE PAINTED BY "INTERNATIONAL MARXISM" AND EXPECTED SEE "BLOOD IN STREETS". REALITY OF SITUATION DAWNED ON HIM RAPIDLY AND HE OPENLY EXPRESSED HIS SURPRISE AND GRATIFICATION AT WHAT HE SAW.

2. ACCORDING PERCEPTIONS OF FON MIN PROFESSIONALS, RABASA ALSO CLEARLY EXPECTED TO FIND THAT PINOCHET AND OTHER MILITARY LEADERS WERE "TYPICAL GORILLAS". APPARENTLY PINOCHET AND OTHERS RABASA MET IMPRESSED HIM AS REASONABLE MEN. BY TIME RABASA LEFT ATMOSPHERE HAD CHANGED FROM FROST TO NEAR WARMTH.

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3. FON MIN PROFESSIONALS NOW FEEL HUERTA PRESS CONFERENCE

BLAST AT UK, ITALY, MEXICO, COLOMBIA MAY 23 (REFTEL B) MAY HAVE BEEN EXCELLENT DIPLOMACY AFTER ALL, AS IT BROUGHT IMMEDIATE RESPONSE FROM MEXICO AND COLOMBIA AND IMPROVED SITUATION. GOC PLANS LET ITALIANS STEW, LEAVING UNRECOGNIZED ITALIAN "CHARGE" WITH EXPIRED TOURIST VISA UNMOLESTED BUT REFUSING TO DEAL WITH ITALIAN EMBASSY ON 8 ASYLEES REMAINING THERE. OUR FON OFF SOURCE SAID ITALIAN "CHARGE" IS BUSILY HOUSE-HUNTING AND APPARENTLY EXPECTS TO STAY FOR SOME TIME. WE HAVE DISTINCT IMPRESSION CHILEANS MAY EXPECT ITALIAN AND EVEN BRITISH SPECIAL EMISSARIES TO COME WINGING IN AT ANY MOMENT. THOMPSON

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